APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,263	02/27/2002	Tetsuya Onishi	02109/LH	1754

1933 7590 10/19/2005	EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/085,263	ONISHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Damon Conover	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>27 February 2002</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-12</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>27 February 2002</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1.   The drawings are objected to because items described in the specification are missing. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The specification describes items A, B, and C when referring to Figure 1, but they are missing from the drawing.

The specification describes steps 3S1-3S5 when referring to Figure 7, but they are missing from the drawing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 1-4, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Palmer et al. (U.S. patent 6,002,798).

With respect to claim 1, Palmer et al. disclose a method and apparatus for

storing document images, creating a retrieval index, and for displaying the retrieved

document (abstract). The invention processes the document image to determine its

structure, and then extracts contents of the document (images and text), so the contents

can be stored along with the document image (column 2, lines 40-46 and column 7,

lines 45-53). The invention also creates an index using the text extracted from the

document, so that the document can be retrieved with reference to the indexed text

(column 3, lines 4-19). The invention includes a scanner 31 for inputting image data into

the apparatus, and a computer 10 which includes mass storage memory 20, a

keyboard/mouse 19, and display 17 for extracting text from the image and storing it

along with the image data and for retrieving and displaying the image. The scanner 31

(inputting section) inputs a new data set including new image data and a new character

information data (column 4, lines 61-64). The computer 10 (retrieving section) judges

that the plurality of data sets include the same character information data as the new

character information data (column 7, lines 54-64). In the method disclosed by Palmer

et al., once images are scanned in and the text extracted by optical character

recognition, the document indexes, formed from the extracted text, and the document

images are stored in a centralized database (column 5, lines 15-17), so that a single

search can return items from multiple data sets (column 7, line 66 – column 8, lines 10).

This method is analogous to correlating a new data set with an existing data set

including the same character information data memorized in the information memorizing

section.

With respect to claim 2, the information memorizing section stores the image

data and character data together, so that the retrieving section can retrieve a plurality of

data sets with a single search (column 7, line 66 – column 8, lines 10).

With respect to claim 3, the image data contain a character image data and the

character information data are obtained from the character image data by a technique of

character recognition (column 7, lines 7-11).

With respect to claim 4, Palmer et al. disclose a character information retrieving

section which retrieves newly inputted character information data from the database

containing the plurality of character information data that has been previously scanned

(column 5, lines 15-17). By comparing the newly inputted character information with the

character information data previously captured and included in the index (comparing

section) (column 7, lines 56-59), a score can be calculated based on the occurrence of

the newly inputted characters (determining section) (column 7, lines 66 – column 8,

lines 10).

With respect to claim 6, In the method disclosed by Palmer et al., once images

are scanned in and the text extracted by optical character recognition, the document

indexes, formed from the extracted text, and the document images are stored in a

centralized database (column 5, lines 15-17), so that a single search can return items

from multiple data sets (column 7, line 66 – column 8, lines 10). This method is

analogous to memorizing the new data set in the information memorizing section in a

correlated form with the existing data set including the same character information data.

With respect to claim 8, Palmer et al. identify the date data as a standard

structure that can be extracted from an image document and stored with the data set in

the database (column 6, lines 21-30). The retrieving section can use the date data to

structure the search query to retrieve documents with the same date (column 7, line 66

– column 8, lines 10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 5, 7, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Palmer et al. in view of Chevion e al. (U.S. patent 5,455,875).

With respect to claim 5, as discussed above, Palmer et al. disclose a method

and apparatus for storing document images, creating a retrieval index based on text

extracted from the documents, and for displaying the retrieved document.

Palmer et al. do not include an operating section to correct the data set.

Chevion et al. disclose a system and method for correcting data extracted by optical character recognition (column 2, lines 1-2). Chevion et al. list several logical tests, such as checking the dates, checksums, other code sums or validating information from a database (for example, an ID number),that can be used to improve the quality of the data entry (column 7, line 67 – column 8, lines 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the document indexing and storage steps of Palmer et al., the data validating steps of Chevion et al. before storing the data in the database, in order to improve the quality of the data entry system and eliminate manual intervention (Chevion et al., column 8, lines 3-5).

With respect to claim 7, as discussed above, Palmer et al. disclose a method and apparatus for storing document images, creating a retrieval index based on text extracted from the documents, and for using the index to query and display a set of retrieved documents.

Palmer et al. do not disclose the inclusion of inspection data to identify an inspection conducted.

As discussed above, Chevion et al. disclose a system and method for correcting data extracted by optical character recognition, which stores the recognition results in the database along with the document image and character data (column 4, lines 21-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the indexing and storage steps of Palmer et al., the storage of inspection data of Chevion et al. The discussion is the same as addressed above.

With respect to claims 9 and 12, as discussed above, Palmer et al. disclose a method and apparatus for storing document images, creating a retrieval index based on text extracted from the documents, and for using the index to query and display a set of retrieved documents. The invention includes a scanner 31 for inputting image data into the apparatus, and a computer 10 which includes mass storage memory 20 for storing the image data and the extracted character data. The computer 10 is also used to compare the newly inputted character information with the character information data previously captured and included in the index (comparing section) (column 7, lines 56-59).

Palmer et al. do not include an operating section to operate the data set.

Chevion et al. disclose a system and method for correcting data extracted by optical character recognition (column 2, lines 1-2). Chevion et al. list several logical tests, such as checking the dates, checksums, other code sums or validating information from a database (for example, an ID number), that can be used to improve the quality of the data entry (column 7, line 67 – column 8, lines 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include in the document indexing and storage steps of Palmer et al., the data validating steps of Chevion et al. before storing the data in the database. The discussion is the same as addressed above.

With respect to claim 10, the image data contain a character image data and the character information data are obtained from the character image data by a technique of character recognition (column 7, lines7-11).

With respect to claim 11, Palmer et al. disclose a character information retrieving section which retrieves newly inputted character information data from the database containing the plurality of character information data that has been previously scanned (column 5, lines 15-17). By comparing the newly inputted character information with the character information data previously captured and included in the index (comparing section) (column 7, lines 56-59), a score can be calculated based on the occurrence of the newly inputted characters (determining section) (column 7, lines 66 – column 8, lines 10).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Melen et al. (U.S. patent 6,263,121) disclose a system and method for archiving and retrieving documents based on attributes of the document (abstract). Melen et al. lists the date as a potential attribute that could be used (Figure 3).

Stalcup et al. (U.S. patent 6,741,743) disclose a method and apparatus for automatically identifying scanned documents by comparing a pattern against electronic versions of the scanned documents (column 1, lines 56-59).

DeVito et al. (U.S. patent 5,825,943) disclose a method and system for storing and selectively retrieving information, such as words, from a document set (abstract).

Kunimoto et al. (U.S. patent 5,917,536) disclose an image recording apparatus for storing medical documents, such as MRI and CT images, along with text information such a the patent name and document number (abstract).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Damon Conover whose telephone number is (571) 272-5448. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu, can be reached at (571) 272-7429. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER